

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1-14 are pending. Example support for new claims 13 and 14 may be found in paragraph [0032] of Applicants' Specification.

COMMENTS ON OCTOBER 8, 2008 EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time in conducting a telephone interview with Applicants' Representative on October 8, 2008. A brief summary of the issues discussed during the interview is set forth below.

Prior to the interview, Applicants provided the Examiner with proposed amendments to claims 1, 5, 7 and 11. The amendments proposed for claims 5 and 11 are commensurate with those set forth herein. The amendments proposed for claims 1 and 7 are essentially commensurate with the amendments made herein, except that claims 1 and 7 (as amended herein) further include the limitation "based on a comparison between the authentication user object and a previous authentication user object." As indicated by the October 10, 2008 Interview Summary, this feature was proposed by the Examiner during the interview.

In addition to the amendments discussed above, Applicants also argued in favor of the patentability of claims 1, 5, 7, and 11. The arguments presented

by Applicants during the interview are commensurate with those set forth below.

At the conclusion of the interview, Applicants and the Examiner agreed that amending claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 in the manner set forth herein would overcome the current art rejection in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,185,192 ("*Kahn*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,148,342 ("*Ho*"). The Examiner also indicated that these amendments would raise new issues and require an RCE to be considered. Accordingly, Applicants have filed this amendment along with an RCE to further expedite prosecution.

No other pertinent matters were discussed.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have resubmitted the form PTO-1449 identified in Applicants' November 13, 2007 response. Applicants request the Examiner consider the references listed on the PTO-1449 and provide an initialed form along with the next PTO correspondence. The references listed on the PTO-1449 are not included herewith because they were previously provided. If the Examiner requires additional copies of the references, Applicants request the Examiner contact the undersigned.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,185,192 ("*Kahn*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,342 ("*Ho*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.¹

As discussed above, and indicated by the October 10, 2008 Interview Summary, the Examiner and Applicants agreed that the amendments made herein would be sufficient to overcome the current rejection. However, to ensure a complete record of the arguments set forth during the interview, Applicants provide the following arguments in support of the patentability of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 11.

With respect to claim 5, *Kahn* and *Ho*, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest at least, "comparing the authentication user object with a previous authentication user object," and "assigning the authentication user object a right to access data at the level of the operating system based on the comparing step."

In *Kahn*, a user (120-124) obtains access to resource server 200 via a login agent 305. The authentication authority 307 authenticates communications between the server 200 and the user. During the login process, login agent 305 obtains a user name and password from the user and

¹ To be thorough, further expedite prosecution, and for the sake of clarity, Applicants provide discussions of each of the references separately, however, Applicants are not attacking these references individually, but arguing that the references, even taken in combination, fail to render the claimed invention obvious because all features of claim 1 are not found in the prior art.

validates this information against data in the user accounts database 350-2. Once validated, the login agent 305 assigns a default user identification number and user group number to the user. Contrary to claim 1, however, *Kahn* does not compare any user objects identifying users at the level of the operating system nor does *Kahn* assign data access rights based on such a comparison.

Moving forward, *Ho* discloses a method for retrieving sensitive stored data. Referring to FIGS. 2A-2B, when requesting data from a source terminal, the user enters information such as a password or other identifying information to verify the user's identity. Once verified, the user is then capable of accessing secure data. But, *Ho* suffers from the same deficiencies as *Kahn* with respect to claim 5; namely, *Ho* fails to disclose or fairly suggest at least, "comparing the authentication user object with a previous authentication user object," and "assigning the authentication user object a right to access data at the level of the operating system based on the comparing step," as now required by claim 5. Indeed, *Ho* does not compare any user objects identifying users at the level of the operating system nor does *Ho* assign data access rights based on such a comparison.

Because neither *Kahn* nor *Ho* discloses or suggests the above-described features, the references (even in combination) fail to render claim 5 obvious. Therefore, claim 5 is patentable over *Kahn* in view of *Ho*. Claims 1, 7 and 11 are patentable over *Kahn* in view of *Ho* for at least reasons somewhat similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 5. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are

patentable over *Kahn* in view of *Ho* at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1, 5, 7 or 11.

FURTHER PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Kahn* in view of *Ho* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,892,307 ("*Wood*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that even assuming *arguendo* *Wood* could be combined with *Kahn* and/or *Ho* (which Applicants do not admit), *Wood* suffers from the same deficiencies as described above with regard to *Kahn* and *Ho*. Therefore, even in combination, the references fail to teach or suggest all features of claim 1 or 7. Therefore, claims 3 and 9 are patentable over *Kahn*, *Ho* and/or *Wood*, taken singly or in combination.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new claims 13 and 14, which are also believed to distinguish over the cited art. Allowance of new claims 13 and 14 is requested.

CONCLUSION

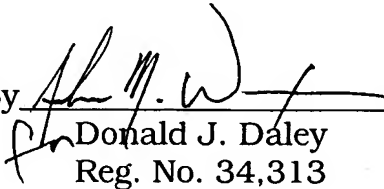
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-14 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By  #56,007
Donald J. Daley
Reg. No. 34,313

DJD/AMW:aem

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000